

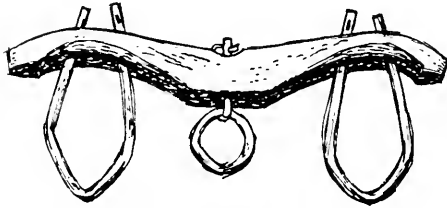
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The House of the House Divided
Delivered by Mr. Henry A. Converse

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THE HOUSE OF THE HOUSE DIVIDED

THE HOUSE OF THE HOUSE DIVIDED

*Commemorating your visit to
Springfield, Illinois on the
occasion of the Lincoln
Bicentennial observance.*

*Compliments of the Sangamon
County Bar Association*

February 12, 1959



HENRY A. CONVERSI.
(1875-1952)

THE HOUSE OF THE HOUSE DIVIDED

Delivered by Mr. HENRY A. CONVERSE (1875-1952) before the Lincoln
Centennial Association, in the Circuit Court Room, Sangamon
County Court House, Springfield, Illinois, February 12, 1924.

FOREWORD

In 1923, Henry A. Converse, long a leader of the Sangamon County Bar, prepared the first and only complete history of the Sangamon County court house which served as the capitol of the State of Illinois from its erection until the present state house was first occupied in 1876. This history, entitled "The House of the House Divided," was read at a meeting of the Lincoln Centennial Association, held in the venerable building itself on February 12, 1924. It was printed in the first volume of papers of the Association, a series that made a notable addition to the body of material dealing with Lincoln and his times. The volume has long been out of print and its historical importance alone would justify, in fact require, its reissue.

To honor Mr. Converse, who died December 27, 1951, the Sangamon County Bar Association now reprints Mr. Converse's scholarly paper. It is a fitting memorial to an illustrious member. Mr. Converse's active professional life was closely bound up with the building. To him the building served as a constant reminder of the part that his forebears, their contemporaries and members of the bar played in the development of this state.

On two occasions in the 1940's the voters of Sangamon County rejected a proposition to provide a site for a new county court house to enable restoration of the present structure as a historical monument. Henry A. Converse and John Palmer Snigg, who shortly before his death in 1952 suggested this memorial, led a small but devoted group in urging adoption of the proposition.

In reissuing the history of the old capitol the Sangamon County Bar Association is honoring one of its renowned members and also making available the history of one of the classic and memorable buildings in downstate Illinois. It is hoped the publication will help and encourage those interested in cherishing and preserving the history of this community and the State of Illinois.

In 1957 the City of Springfield appointed a Historical Monuments Commission of seven members (Frank R. Sullivan, chairman) in the interest of the preservation of its historical monuments. The Commission is undertaking to carry on the work commenced by Mr. Converse. Its first resolution paid its respects to the historical significance of the "House Divided" speech delivered in the Old Capitol by Abraham Lincoln on June 16, 1858, and recommended that steps be taken to restore the old Capitol to its original condition as it was in Lincoln's Day. Appropriately this history is being published on the centennial anniversary of the "House Divided" speech.

The late Harry E. Pratt, Illinois State Historian from 1950 to 1956, carefully verified all data in view of information available 30 years after the original paper. Clifford Blunk, past president of the Sangamon County Bar Association, compiled the volume. The illustrations (which did not accompany the original

publication) were collected and arranged by Robert A. Stuart. The Abraham Lincoln Association, successor to the Lincoln Centennial Association, through its president, George W. Bunn, Jr., has kindly given permission for publication.

There has been added a biography of Mr. Converse from the *Illinois State Journal* and an editorial from the *Illinois State Register*, both of which appeared shortly after his death; also memorial of this association presented in the Sangamon County Circuit Court on January 24, 1953.

June 16, 1958

SANGAMON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Lacey Catron, *President*

Frederick H. Stone, *Vice President*

A. D. Van Meter, Jr., *Secretary-Treasurer*

Henry R. Barber, *Director*

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Biography of H. A. Converse, from the *Illinois State Journal* December 28, 1951.

Henry A. Converse, of 1030 S. Sixth St., a prominent Springfield attorney for many years, died at 10:27 p.m. yesterday at Memorial hospital, where he had been admitted as a patient Oct. 6. He was 76 years old.

Mr. Converse was born Sept. 9, 1875, the son of the late Dr. Albert L. Converse and Henrietta Thompson Converse, and the grandson of the late Henry C. Converse and Niana Priest Converse. His grandparents came to Sangamon county more than 100 years ago and purchased a farm north of the city of Springfield. This farm afterwards became the site of the Illinois Watch Co., the Sangamo Electric Co., and Reservoir park.

Mr. Converse received his early education at the Converse school and at the Springfield High school. Later he studied law at the University of Michigan, graduating from there in 1900. His class celebrated the 50th anniversary of its graduation in 1950, and Mr. Converse was honored by being chosen president of the class reunion.

After being admitted to the bar, Mr. Converse was appointed assistant United States district attorney under Thomas Worthington. Later he served in the same capacity under William A. Northcutt.

After leaving the U.S. district attorney's office, Mr. Converse became for a short time secretary of the Inter-Ocean Casualty Co., after which he joined the firm of Allen, Humphrey & Converse in the private practice of law. Afterwards he became associated with the late William Patton and later with Miles Gray. He continued in the practice of his profession until the time of his death.

During his many years in the practice of his profession, Mr. Converse enjoyed to an unusual degree the esteem of his fellow practitioners not only for his recognized ability as a lawyer but also because of his constant adherence to the highest ideals and ethics of his profession.

Mr. Converse was a director of the Central Illinois Light Co., the Inter-Ocean Insurance Co. of Cincinnati, and of the Abraham Lincoln association. He presided at the annual meetings of the latter organization on several occasions and at one of its meetings delivered an address entitled "The House of the House Divided." It was a history of the former state capitol, the present Sangamon county courthouse. He always cherished the hope that this historic building would be taken over by the state and made a Lincoln shrine for the benefit of future generations. Because of his connection with the Abraham Lincoln association, Mr. Converse was invited to make

numerous Lincoln birthday addresses, on one occasion speaking at Cincinnati, Ohio, and on another occasion at Jackson, Michigan.

Comparatively few persons know that Mr. Converse was the author of the condensed biography of Abraham Lincoln that appears on a bronze plaque in the corridor of the Lincoln tomb in Springfield. It is of interest to note that the wording of this biography is just as Mr. Converse wrote it in the original longhand draft. It was never changed afterwards in any respect by himself or anyone else.

He was a member of the Central Baptist church, the Sangamo Club, and the Illini Country club, and for more than 60 years had been a member of the Springfield Y.M.C.A.

He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Anais C. Smith and Mrs. Henrietta Converse Deal, and one brother, Dr. Albert E. Converse, all of Springfield.

The body is at the Thomas C. Smith's Sons funeral home.

HENRY A. CONVERSE

Some men departing this life leave a void that is difficult to fill. They possessed personality and individual influence which went beyond their daily activities, however important. Such a man was Henry A. Converse, 76, who died last night after a long illness.

As a boy, mentally and physically alert, "Harry" Converse, as he was familiarly known to many, was a worthy representative of a pioneer family which began the building of this community over a century ago. He reflected distinguished honor upon his parents, the late Dr. Albert L. and Henrietta Thompson Converse. Graduating from Springfield High school in 1893, and in law from the University of Michigan in 1900, Attorney Converse first distinguished himself in his profession as assistant U.S. district attorney when the late Judge J. Otis Humphrey was presiding on the federal bench. It was in association with the brilliant Lincoln-minded Judge Humphrey that Attorney Converse developed understanding and championship of the life and work of Mr. Lincoln which marked him as one of the outstanding writers and speakers on the life of Lincoln in this area.

Not only in the practice of law and as a member of the history making firm, Allen, Humphrey and Converse, but in a wide diversification of activities, Mr. Converse added luster to his record. He was director of the Central Illinois Light company, the Inter-Ocean Insurance company of Cincinnati, and the Abraham Lincoln Association. He was a member of the Central Baptist church, the Sangamo and Illini Country clubs and for 60 years a member of the Y.M.C.A., where he became a formidable young athlete while attending high school.

Attorney Converse was widely recognized as an authority on Lincoln. His condensed biography of Lincoln constitutes without change a plaque in the corridor of the Lincoln tomb. His cherished ambition to have the old State House, now the Sangamon County Court House, converted into a perpetual shrine to inspire future generations will no doubt fire the ambitions of others to fulfill that laudable ambition.

These few words give small measure of the broad career of Henry A. Converse to whose survivors the community extends sincere sympathy in their bereavement. No city has enough such men as he, but his service will be an enduring monument to inspire others to become Lincoln-minded and to honor this community by following the precept so well voiced by Vachel Lindsay:

We must have many Lincoln-hearted men;
A city is not builded in a day,
For men must do their work and come and go
While countless generations pass away.

MEMORIAL OF SANGAMON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESENTED IN SANGAMON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
JANUARY 24, 1953

Henry A. Converse was born September 9, 1875, and died December 27, 1951. His 76 years were lived in Springfield, Illinois. He had an uncommonly long active participation in the greatest era of change in living conditions known to man. He was engaged in business and government affairs from his first manhood to the time of his death.

His family was one of influence in the community, settled here since 1842 and closely associated with the business life of Springfield. His father was brought to Springfield as a child of tender years and grew well into adult manhood while Abraham Lincoln and his associates were familiar on the streets and in the life of the City. Henry A. Converse himself knew many persons who had seen and known Lincoln and lived through the time Lincoln resided in Sangamon County.

He attended a Springfield grade school and the Springfield High School, so his most forming years were spent in a family and community environment, at a time when the Lincoln tradition was in its most rapid growth.

From this family descent and this atmosphere in which his early years passed he acquired a strong feeling of being a part of the history of an important community in an important time. He was thus imbued with a living reverence for a tradition of noble living, and a view that preserving that tradition ennobled the life of the City of Springfield and all that touched it, by being an integral part of the present life of the City.

This idea was the inspiration for his valiant and sustained effort to have the present Court House in Springfield taken by the State of Illinois as a permanent shrine.

After a course at the University of Michigan, for which he kept a real fondness throughout his life, he began the practice of law, which he followed earnestly for more than fifty years, and the pursuit of Republican politics, in which he was zealous almost all his life.

In his practice of law he joined a Sangamon County bar of the next succeeding generation trained by and following after Lincoln, Douglas, Colonel Baker, Edwards, General McClelland, Governor and General Palmer, John T. Stuart and Stephen Logan. The names of this generation of lawyers whom Henry A. Converse met in his lawyer's youth would be among them who possessed in their prime a moving power as great at least, as any now known.

He practiced law as a profession, according to his sense of high tradition, with the same inflexible loyalty to courts, the law, the members of the bar, and the good of society, that he gave to home, town, state and nation. He had no respect for and little patience with, skill in petifogging and chicanery. He was studious, careful and able in preparing his causes, and thereby forceful and persuasive in presenting them.

His legal experience was large and varied. He was for a number of years Assistant United States District Attorney at Springfield, and after entering private practice continuously represented substantial corporate and private business interests.

Law was the pursuit which took most of his attention, but other interests were not neglected. He was long a valued member and aid to his Central Baptist Congregation of Springfield, to the Sangamo Club, a social organization, and especially to the Abraham Lincoln Association. He contributed to that Association a history of the present Sangamon County Court House as the State Capitol Building of Illinois, which received large attention for its completeness, interest and accuracy. He prepared also the very short biography of Abraham Lincoln set on a plaque in the corridor of the Lincoln Monument in Springfield.

He never married. He left surviving him his sisters, Mrs. Anais Smith and Mrs. Henrietta Deal, and his brother, Dr. Albert E. Converse.

Within his memory was a City of Springfield of probably 15,000 people, heated by wood burned in fireplaces, with no pavements or surfaced streets, no telephone, no street-cars. Lighting was by candles or coal-oil. Water was from wells. He lived from no plumbing to laws requiring plumbing. He began with no sign of electricity except the spark of a static machine, and lived for years while he had a button at his hand everywhere, to light, to cook, to heat, to move all things, electrically at his command. He saw the mechanical phonograph develop as a world wonder and become obsolete before the electrical player and radio. The cinema began and the production and showing of it grew to an enormous industry, while the living stage that he knew first disappeared from his environment, as the population grew more than five-fold. Radio began, thrived, and suffered the threat of television, within his ken, and the development of atomic power left the human mind staggered and bewildered at what might be next. He lived from no street-cars to street-cars, to busses and no street-cars; from the danger of runaway horses and no automobiles, to an automobile traffic much deadlier than horses, and no horses. He saw the time of the first flight of man into the air, and the arrival of the jet-plane.

Through this journey, as though through two worlds, he kept the guiding sense, as a constant influence in his life, that the stream of human life is unbroken and interconnected, that a soul grows in a whole society, or shrinks and diminishes, as the living members do well the work that was begun by their

honored forbears, or fail to live up to that responsibility; that the dead among men are really a part of the living, and the living are a part of those who shall come after them; that each human life has some effect upon the whole, for good or ill.

He lived by that idea, in all of many busy relations. He was a most excellent example for the conduct of a human life.

He earned well and deserves well, of this bar, his home City, his state, and all who knew his life, that great encomium: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

THE HOUSE OF THE HOUSE DIVIDED

IN COMPARISON with the great nations of the world we are, in fact, historically young.

Our vast expanse of fertile soil, our boundless natural resources, our diversified climate, our religious freedom and our popular form of government have been the principal factors that have contributed to our phenomenal growth as a nation.

The energy, the commercial and inventive genius of our people have enabled us to forge ahead with such rapid strides that in the diplomatic and commercial world the United States is rated among the most powerful.

It is customary in what are considered the more refined and polite circles of the Old World to class us as *nouveau riche*, and we are not permitted to mingle with the elect upon actual terms of equality, largely because we are supposed to lack traditions.

The fact that we may be rich and powerful should cause us to take heed that we appear becomingly modest, but we are well within our rights when we take pride in the fact that from our soil, under the most humble and typically American conditions and surroundings, there has sprung one who has exercised the most humane influence for international good in the secular history of the world.

Not only is Abraham Lincoln the heritage of all of the American people, but he is peculiarly the heritage of the people of Springfield, Illinois.

His tomb is a shrine to which in each succeeding year come in increasing numbers from the corners of the earth, the great and the small, to bow in humble reverence in memory of this Man of the Ages.

While this shrine and its noble dead deserve the last full measure of our love and devotion, we should not forget that in the geographical and commercial center of our city is a veritable acre of diamonds, the scene of the activities of our great fellow citizen and his compatriots.

This parcel of ground, so long and familiarly known as the Court House Square, is the setting for a splendid, rugged old building that houses within its walls some of the very finest of our national traditions.

And how unmindful we have been of this rare possession.

To the owner of real estate the square marks the location of our choicest business property, with the highest rental values. To the merchant and tradesman, it is the center of our local trade and commercial activities.

This building is the place where we record instruments of conveyance, pay our taxes, probate the estates of our deceased, try our civil and criminal law suits, house our county officials, and hold public meetings, harmonious and otherwise.

Our use of the space surrounding this building is not such as to make us altogether proud.

Here we have had carnivals for the entertainment of the public, while those

of us who were so favored as to have county officials as personal friends have had reserved seats in the windows where we could comfortably view the prowess of tight rope walkers, acrobats, jugglers, trained bears and so forth.

On other occasions we have gathered in great numbers to hear the announcements of the progress of the championship baseball contests; and again, during the dull, torrid summer days the unemployed have decorated the lawn as they lay prone upon the greensward, whiling away the hours in peaceful, sonorous slumber.

But thoughtless as we may have been, for more than half a century this building has stood, the very center of our civic activities, a grim and silent witness of a departed greatness.

If these walls could but echo back the tones that have found eternal lodgment therein, we would hear repeated to us today those matchless and prophetic words:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

And as we pass out of this room in reverent devotion we would be reminded of that event, fifty-nine years ago, when the friends and neighbors of Abraham Lincoln, in solemn procession, filed through this same room to gaze for the last time upon the familiar features of that gentle being, so cruelly and ruthlessly struck down by an assassin.

Possibly we should not too hastily condemn ourselves for that thoughtlessness, for it has been but mere thoughtlessness.

Possibly our conduct has been but natural, like that of children, who do not mean to be irreverent or disrespectful, but now it would seem to be the time for us to be grown up and to grasp the full, mature realization that this county building, the old state capitol, is the most historic building west of the Alleghanies, and one of the most historic in the United States; a building whose beautiful classical lines reflect the departed glory of ancient Greece.

The first settlement in this community was made by Elisha and John Kelley, natives of North Carolina, who located their homes here in the year 1818 at a point which is now Second and Jefferson Streets. In 1821 Sangamon County was organized, this territory being many times its present size, and comprising a number of adjacent counties. The first county seat was located in the Kelley settlement, and the first court was held on April 10, 1821, in the house of John Kelley.

In 1824 the boundaries of Sangamon County were changed by the General Assembly, and commissioners were appointed to locate a permanent county seat, on condition that the parties on whose land the county seat was located should donate to the county thirty-five acres of land adjoining it.

This building is located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 16 North, Range 5, west of the Third Principal Meridian. The land was entered from the United States Government by Pascal P. Enos on November

7, 1823; the north line being on what is now Washington Street. The Southwest Quarter of Section 27, lying immediately north, was entered from the United States by Elijah Iles on the same date.

When the commissioners selected this site Pascal Enos and Elijah Iles, on March 18, 1825, deeded to the county a tract of land, including the present public square, commencing at a point which is now the northeast corner of Fifth and Monroe Streets, thence north to Washington Street, thence east to Sixth Street, thence north to Madison Street, thence east to the quarter section line between Eighth and Ninth Streets, thence south to Monroe Street, thence west to the place of beginning.

The county commissioners then proceeded to sell off the lots, except the public square, and it is interesting to note that the lots, eighty feet wide, on what is now the south side of the Square, sold for twenty to thirty-one dollars each.

A new court house was then built on the northeast corner of Sixth and Adams Streets, which was used until 1831, when a new brick court house was built in the center of this Square. This building immediately preceded the present building, and is of particular interest to us because it was in this building that Judge Stephen T. Logan entered an order granting a certificate of good moral character to Abraham Lincoln, as a preliminary to his admission to the bar.

Mr. Lincoln was licensed to practice on September 9, 1836, and his license was enrolled, as appears from the records of the clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court, on March 1, 1837.

In 1837 the State Capital was changed from Vandalia to Springfield, and this public square was conveyed by the county commissioners of March 11, 1837, to Governor Joseph Duncan.

The brick court house was then demolished and the present building erected on the same site, and was used as the State Capitol building until the year 1876, when the State officials moved into the present State Capitol.

The land was reconveyed to the County of Sangamon and the City of Springfield by Governor John M. Palmer, by deed dated October 23, 1869, for a consideration of \$200,000, and the donation of a new site, the State to be permitted to occupy this building until the new capitol building was completed. This building since 1876 has been used continuously as the Sangamon County court house.

In the early nineties it was discovered that the building was inadequate for the business of the county, that the roof and dome were in a bad state of repair, and that the building needed fireproofing. After considerable agitation, and after considering many plans for remodeling, it was decided to raise the building by adding an additional lower story, and by putting on a new roof

and dome. This work was commenced in 1899 and the new building was reopened on April 29, 1901.

Now, that there is an aroused interest in matters relating to Abraham Lincoln, there is some criticism because this building was raised and changed from the original design. An examination of the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors and newspaper accounts shows conclusively that the men who promoted the plans to raise the building had in mind the preservation of as much as possible of the old building, and that if that plan had not been adopted at that time the building would probably have been demolished and a new building built, or its entire design changed, as there was a strong movement to enlarge the building by building additional wings to the east and west, and also considerable agitation for tearing down the building, selling off three-fourths of the Square, and building a new county building on the remaining one-fourth.

The real historical interest in this building begins with the year 1834, when there was an agitation to move the seat of our State government from Vandalia. The population was rapidly spreading northward, and it was generally conceded that the State Capital should be nearer the center of the State.

On January 4, 1834, a meeting was held in the old court house, at which Daniel Stone presided, and delegates were selected from Sangamon County to attend a convention at Rushville, Illinois, to promote Springfield as the future State Capital. In this year Abraham Lincoln, a young man twenty-five years of age, was a member of the 9th General Assembly, which convened at Vandalia.

In August, 1834, an election was held throughout the State to get the popular sentiment upon the question of the location of the future State Capital, and the cities of Springfield, Alton, Vandalia, Peoria and Jacksonville were all voted upon. Alton and Vandalia received larger votes than Springfield, but the vote was not considered decisive because a large number of the counties did not vote.

In the 10th General Assembly, which convened on December 5, 1836, Sangamon County had nine members, two Senators and seven Representatives. These men were called the "Long Nine" because their combined height was fifty-four feet. The "Long Nine" apparently devoted practically all their activities to securing the removal of the State Capital to Springfield, and it is related that Mr. Lincoln, then twenty-eight years of age, was the leader of his delegation.

On February 25, 1837, the State Legislature passed an act providing that on the 28th of the month the two Houses should convene and select by ballot the seat for the permanent location of the new capital. On the 28th the two Houses convened, and on the fourth ballot Springfield was selected in preference to Jacksonville, Vandalia, Peoria, Alton and Illiopolis.

This act provided that the citizens of the new location should donate a building site of not less than two acres and also \$50,000. It is generally understood that the "Long Nine" succeeded in landing the prize for Springfield by "log rolling," that is, by swapping votes with Representatives from other localities for local improvements desired by them, the County of Sangamon asking for no improvements, but contenting itself with securing the new seat of government.

The act was subject to repeal, and there was fear that it might be repealed at the second session of this same Legislature, which would reconvene on July 10, 1837.

We are apt to think of the "Long Nine" as patriarchs, so it is interesting to note something of the history of these men and their ages in 1837.

Archer G. Herndon, forty-one years old; born in Virginia, served eight years in the State Senate, was Receiver of the Land Office, and the father of William H. Herndon, the law partner of Mr. Lincoln.

Job Fletcher, forty-three years old; born in Virginia, served six years in the State Senate and one term in the House of Representatives.

Ninian W. Edwards, twenty-eight years old; born in Kentucky, served in the State Legislature twelve years, member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1847, Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1854-7, appointed U. S. Commissary by President Lincoln in 1861.

John Dawson, forty-five years old; born in Virginia, served five terms in the Illinois Legislature, member of the Constitutional Convention of 1847.

Andrew McCormick, thirty-five years old; born in Tennessee, served three terms in the Legislature.

Daniel Stone, thirty-seven years old; born in Vermont, served one term in the General Assembly, and also as Circuit Judge, being assigned to the western part of the State, but was legislated out of office.

William F. Elkin, forty-four years old; born in Kentucky, served three terms in the Legislature, and as Register of the Land Office at Springfield from 1861 to 1872.

Robert L. Wilson, thirty-one years old; born in Pennsylvania, served one year in the General Assembly, five times as Circuit Judge, and eight years as Probate Judge, appointed as Pay Master by Abraham Lincoln, serving at Washington and St. Louis.

Abraham Lincoln, twenty-eight years old; born in Kentucky, served eight years in the State Legislature, one term as Representative in Congress and twice elected to the Presidency of the United States.

As evidence that the selection of Springfield was satisfactory, to the extremes of the State at least, we find on March 4, 1837, the *Chicago Advertiser* said:

"We congratulate our friends at Springfield on the selection of that place as the future seat of government, a selection known as judi-

cious from its central position and for the public spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants."

The *Chicago Democrat* said:

"Upon the fourth ballot Springfield, in Sangamon County, was selected as the future Capital of the State. No other town could have satisfied the greater portion of our citizens. It is rather south of the geographical center, but the salubrity of its climate and its facilities for accommodation will amply repay a little extra travelling."

The citizens of Chicago in that day thought well of "our facilities for accommodation," Springfield then being a village of about eleven hundred.

The *Shawneetown Journal* said:

"The Legislature has wisely settled the question of the seat of government, which is permanently located at Springfield, and not only from its central position but from its situation in the heart of the richest part of Illinois we apprehend that it will suit the entire approbation of the people of the State."

The selection of Springfield, however, did not suit all parts of the State. Vandalia, of course, was very much disappointed, as were the other places that had lost out, and many newspapers in various parts of the State criticized the selection.

In the same Legislature of 1836-1837 was Stephen A. Douglas, then twenty-four years of age, who was the champion of Jacksonville, and the issues of the *Sangamo Journal* indicate that Mr. Douglas circulated reports that Springfield was a lawless community, given over to mob rule. However, we should not take these statements too seriously because when the members of the Legislature were returning home many of them stopped at Springfield, where they were given a banquet, at which both Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas responded to toasts; Mr. Lincoln's toast being:

"All our friends. They are too numerous to be now mentioned individually, while there is no one of them who is not too dear to be forgotten or neglected."

The toast of Mr. Douglas was:

"The last winter's legislation—may its results prove no less beneficial to the whole state than they have to our town."

Evidently anticipating the dangers of a possible repeal of the act fixing the new seat of government, our citizens got very busy and our county commissioners on March 11, 1837, deeded the public square to Governor Duncan.

The Commissioners chosen to build the State House were Dr. Anson G. Henry, Archibald Job and Thomas Houghan, the latter resigning, his place being taken by William Herndon. Dr. Henry was apparently the active Commissioner.

The old court house was promptly demolished, excavating was started, and building materials were gotten on the ground in the spring of 1837. On April 8, 1837 the *Sangamo Journal* published an advertisement, for plans for the new building, for the best one of which a premium of \$300 would be given, and requested that three insertions be carried in the *Illinois Republican*, *Missouri Republican*, *Louisville Journal*, *Louisville Public Advertiser*, *Cincinnati Gazette*, *Pittsburgh Gazette* and the *Harrisburg Intelligencer*.

The moving of the State Capital to Springfield no doubt induced Mr. Lincoln to make Springfield his home, for we find a notice in the *Sangamo Journal* of April 15, 1837, that J. T. Stuart and Abraham Lincoln had formed a partnership for the practice of the law, with offices at No. 4 Hoffman's Row, upstairs. In the spring of 1837 Stephen A. Douglas also came to Springfield as Register of the Land Office, receiving his appointment from President Van Buren.

There were then two newspapers published in Springfield; the *Illinois Republican*, established in May, 1835, and the *Sangamo Journal*, established on the 10th day of November, 1831. These papers were bitterly opposed to each other politically. It is said that Mr. Douglas wrote many articles for the *Illinois Republican*, and it was claimed that he was the author of a communication making an attack upon the conduct of Dr. Henry, the acting Commissioner, Dr. Henry being a contributor to the *Sangamo Journal*.

These articles in the *Illinois Republican* precipitated quite a riot, which culminated in an attack upon the offices of the *Illinois Republican*. It is related that Mr. Douglas was present and exhibited considerable physical prowess in ejecting the intruders.

A mass meeting of the citizens of Springfield was held on the 24th of June, 1837, at which meeting Major John T. Stuart presided. At this meeting Abraham Lincoln offered the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, we have seen several publications in the *Illinois Republican* stating that Dr. A. G. Henry, one of the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature to superintend the building of the State House, is squandering disadvantageously and uselessly the public money appropriated by the citizens of this place for that object; and, whereas, if the charge be true, it is highly important to the interests of the State that the trust now held by Dr. Henry should be immediately placed in other hands, therefore,

"RESOLVED, that a committee of seven be appointed to examine the books and proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to superintend the building of the State House, and that said committee make a full and complete report of said proceedings, together with such remarks upon the facts disclosed as their acquaintance with such business may enable them to make, that may go to show whether the Commissioners are or are not progressing with the work in the most

economical and judicious manner, and that said report be published in the newspapers of this place."

The resolution was adopted and the committee was appointed.

The report of the committee set forth in detail the bids that had been made for rock and for three hundred thousand brick. The bids for the brick were considered too high, and the commission made a private contract at a lesser price for the three hundred thousand building brick, and also for one hundred thousand choice front brick. Detailed bids were also shown for sand, and for the taking down of the old court house, the principal source of scandal having grown out of the fact that it was charged that an exorbitant price had been paid, to-wit, \$700, for demolishing the old building.

The most interesting part of this report, however, is that an award of \$300 for the best plans for the State House was awarded to J. F. Rague of Springfield, and to Mr. Singleton of St. Louis; \$200 to Mr. Rague and \$100 to Mr. Singleton.

The lines of this building before it was raised were greatly admired and it has been pronounced by eminent architects as one of the finest examples of Greek Renaissance architecture in this country. Many people have often asked who was the architect, and now that we have found his name we know but little more. He was a resident of Springfield and was President of the Mechanics Institute, a school located on the east side of Third Street, between Washington and Adams Streets.

During the course of the building the Commissioners retained Mr. Rague as supervising architect at a salary of \$1,000 a year.

The old records of the Town of Springfield show that John F. Rague was a Trustee in 1836.

We have learned from the Sangamon County Abstract Company that its records show that John F. Rague and Eliza M. Rague his wife, transferred several pieces of real estate in this City between the years 1836 and 1844.

The Records of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County show that Eliza M. Rague secured a divorce from John F. Rague on April 1st, 1853. The bill for divorce and the Transcript of the evidence disclose that John F. Rague and wife were married in New York April 26th 1820, that they removed to Springfield in 1831 where they lived until 1841, when they again removed to

FIRST STATE CAPITOL IN SPRINGFIELD—The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1837, and the building was occupied by the legislature from 1840 to 1876. Since then it has been the Sangamon County Courthouse. Here Lincoln attended his last term in the legislature, practiced in the Supreme Court, delivered the "House Divided" speech, used the Governor's office in his campaign for the presidency in 1860. His body lay in state in the House of Representatives Hall, May 3-4, 1865.



Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1851 Mrs. Rague returned to Springfield and took up her residence. The summons in the Divorce proceedings was served upon the husband in Chicago. John F. Rague did not return to Springfield to live subsequent to 1841 and no trace can be gotten of his further activities. He died in Dubuque, Iowa, on September 25, 1877, and is buried in Linwood Cemetery in that city. On the headstone of his grave his age at time of his death is given as 78 years.

It seems strange that a village of eleven hundred people could, in 1837, produce an architect who could plan such a beautiful building.

The committee on investigation unanimously reported that the building commissioners

“have evinced much skill and judgment in all their plans, great energy and activity in prosecuting them, and have observed more than ordinary care, system and accuracy in their records, books, accounts and papers, and are richly entitled to the thanks and gratitude of their fellow-citizens.”

The corner stone was laid on July 4, 1837, and the proceedings, as reported in the *Journal* of July 8, 1837, were imposing.

The articles deposited in the corner stone were: A list of the general officers of the State government, a copy of the law locating the seat of government at Springfield, a copy of the Journals of the last session of the General Assembly, several species of American coins, comprising some of the late issues from the mint and also some of the year 1795, the name of the architect of the building, with those of the commissioners.

A large concourse of people was present. Edward D. Baker ascended the corner stone and gave a short and animated address. Articles in the press make reference to the fact that at the coming session of the Legislature an attempt would be made to repeal the act selecting Springfield as the location. Daniel Stone, having resigned as a member of the House, Mr. E. D. Baker, who had delivered the address at the laying of the corner stone, was selected to fill his place. Mr. Baker, having taken his place among the “Long Nine,” it is proper that we should give some consideration to this romantic character, who is so aptly referred to as a “Knight Errant.”

He was born in London, England, February 24, 1811, and came to Springfield in 1835. At the time he delivered the address at the laying of the corner stone he was twenty-six years old. He served two terms in the Legislature, and two terms in the House of Representatives in Congress, his second term in Congress being from Galena, Illinois, to which point he had moved after serving in the Mexican War. In 1852 he moved to California. He had early achieved a very extensive reputation for the brilliancy of his eloquence. While in California he delivered the funeral oration over Senator Broderick, who had been killed in a duel by Judge Terry. This funeral oration is often referred

to as the most eloquent funeral oration ever delivered on the continent of America.

Duelling had been considered the proper way for gentlemen to settle a dispute, and many fine characters had been sacrificed on this so-called field of honor. This funeral oration so aroused public sentiment that the practice of duelling received almost instantaneous and unanimous condemnation, and went out of existence as an American institution.

Mr. Baker then moved to Oregon, from which state he was elected to the United States Senate, where he promptly received recognition for his eloquence. His address in the Senate, in reply to Judah P. Benjamin, was considered one of the most eloquent of the times. Upon declaration of war he organized and became Colonel of the California regiment. He was killed at the battle of Balls Bluff, October 20, 1861.

At the second session of the Legislature an attempt was made to repeal the act fixing Springfield as the state capitol, but largely through the efforts of Messrs. Lincoln and Baker the proposed repeal was defeated.

As previously stated, the work of erecting the new State Capitol was started as promptly as possible in the spring of 1837, and it was some time in the early fifties before the project was finally completed. In addition to what can be found in the newspapers of the times, and interviews with descendants of those who worked on the building, we find the following acts of the Legislature making appropriations, which give us some idea of the progress of the work: Act approved February 25, 1837, appropriated the first \$50,000; Act approved March 3, 1837, appointed the three Commissioners and fixed their compensation at \$3.00 per day; Act approved January 12, 1839, appropriated \$128,300 to finish the building; Act approved June 29, 1839, appropriated \$30,000 to pay bills already accrued for the building of the State House, and forbade the Commissioners to incur any more indebtedness without legislative authority. Acts approved February 26 and 27, 1841, directed the Secretary of State and State Treasurer to take charge of the State House grounds and to complete the building, and appropriated \$7,000 therefor. The State Treasurer was directed to take possession of all materials on the grounds and any person having possession of any materials was required to surrender them up and upon failure to do so was guilty of a high misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment in jail for six months. The Auditor, State Treasurer and Secretary of State were authorized to examine the accounts and vouchers of the commissioners, with authority to call witnesses and place them under oath, and any person swearing falsely was to be guilty of perjury.

Act approved January 24, 1843, appropriated \$600 for repairing the roof; Act approved March 4, 1843, appropriated \$2,000 to finish the House of Representatives, and \$400 for additional repairs to the roof; Act approved January 3, 1845, appropriated various sums to about a dozen men and women, from \$1.25

to \$65.31 each, for services in fitting up the two halls of the General Assembly; Act approved February 16, 1847, appropriated \$20,000 to complete the State House, and directed the Governor, Auditor and State Treasurer to enclose the same with a good substantial plank fence; Act approved February 12, 1849, appropriated \$7,000 to complete the State House; Act approved February 17, 1851, appropriated \$11,000 to complete the State House.

Evidently the Commissioners were subjected to considerable criticism, as they were discharged by the Act approved February 27, 1841. On January 22, 1840, Commissioners A. G. Henry and William Herndon, in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives, filed a report showing that their total expenditures were \$151,957.37, and estimating that it would take \$37,000 to complete the building. They also reported that they had spent \$620 for additional offices to temporarily house the State officers, and that if the Legislature did not wish to allow that they would pay the expense out of their own pockets. In the House Reports of the 13th General Assembly appears a communication dated January 22, 1843, from Commissioner A. G. Henry, addressed to the House of Representatives, asking for a full audit of his accounts and complaining that he had been placed in the light of being a defaulter. This matter was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Public Grounds, and this committee, on February 25, 1843, filed a very voluminous report, the substance of which was to relieve Mr. Henry from the charges that had been made against him, but also criticizing his bookkeeping and his failure to keep proper vouchers and receipts.

In 1839 the offices of the State government were moved from Vandalia to Springfield, the movable property of the State being transported by wagons overland, as there were no railroads. The Senate occupied the First Methodist Church, on the southeast corner of Fifth and Monroe Streets; the House of Representatives used the Second Presbyterian Church, on the west side of Fourth and just north of Monroe Street, and the Supreme Court sat in the Episcopal Church, between Third and Fourth, on the south side of Adams Street.

Evidently it was the original intention to build the Capitol out of brick, upon a stone foundation. In the issue of the *Saugamo Journal* of December 30, 1837, we find the statement that the outdoor work on the building had come to a close for the season, and that the foundation, with the exception of a portion of the south wall, had been completed; also that the joists for the first floor were laid, and that the walls were covered to prevent injury from the weather. This article also recites that everybody agrees that the building should be built of cut stone, the material for which, of the finest character, is found in the immediate neighborhood.

The *Shawneetown Voice*, in its issue of February 24, 1838, states that the plans had been changed, to substitute stone for brick, and that this will increase the cost, but that it presumes that since Springfield is to be the perma-

ment seat, and that Illinois is entitled to a fine building, the people and the Legislature will be indulgent if the work is not done extravagantly.

On December 1, 1837, the Commissioners, A. Job and A. G. Henry, entered into a contract with LeRoy L. Hill to secure the necessary stone for the building, from 1837 to 1841, from his farm on Sugar Creek, at one dollar per load. This contract is recorded in Book O, at page 319, in the office of the County Recorder of Sangamon County.

On February 2nd of this year the writer, together with Mr. Alva Shepherd, visited the old farm of Mr. LeRoy Hill. Living on this farm we found Mrs. Alice J. Shoup, the widow of Samuel Shoup, formerly a sheriff of this County, and a Colonel in the Civil War. Mrs. Shoup, now eighty-seven years of age, spent her early girlhood in the City of Springfield, and remembers the building operations, particularly the putting up of the columns and porticos, in the years 1847, 1848 and 1849. We learned from Mrs. Shoup, and also from Mr. Samuel Stout, who was born and raised in the immediate neighborhood, that the stone for the building was quarried on the Hill farm and the Philemon Stout farm, which immediately joins on the west.

The stone was hauled to Springfield, a distance of seven or eight miles, on wagons pulled by ten to twelve yoke of oxen. The old crane used in raising the large stone for the columns stood on the Stout farm, and Mr. Stout as a child played on it a great many times. The roads at times were very bad, as the prairie was often very wet and swampy, and for many years large blocks of stone could be seen along the road where they had been dumped from the wagons, and could not be replaced because of lack of machinery. These stones have long since been removed, except three large, round stones, which may still be seen on the west side of the road near the south end of the bridge across Sugar Creek, where Crow's mill used to stand.

After the close of the working season in 1837 there was a great deal of scurrying around in Springfield to make good the original terms on which the State Capital was to be moved. The original act appropriated \$50,000 on condition that the citizens of Springfield would reimburse the State in an equal amount. One-third of the money was put up by the City of Springfield, and one-third by the citizens out in the County, but the payment of the final third seemed like an impossibility, as a panic had struck the country.

The final payment, however, was settled by 101 citizens signing a note for \$16,666.67, dated March 22, 1838, payable to the president, directors and company of the State Bank of Illinois. This original note was kept on display for many years at the Ridgely National Bank. The signers were the founders of many of the leading families of this city.

It seems unfair to call particular attention at this time to any select group of signers, so therefore we will refer to only A. Lincoln, E. D. Baker and

John F. Rague, the architect of the building. The note was paid February 19, 1846, the principal and interest at that time amounting to \$17,918.

The work of erecting the building was not let to a general contractor, but was let out in separate contracts, superintended by the architect.

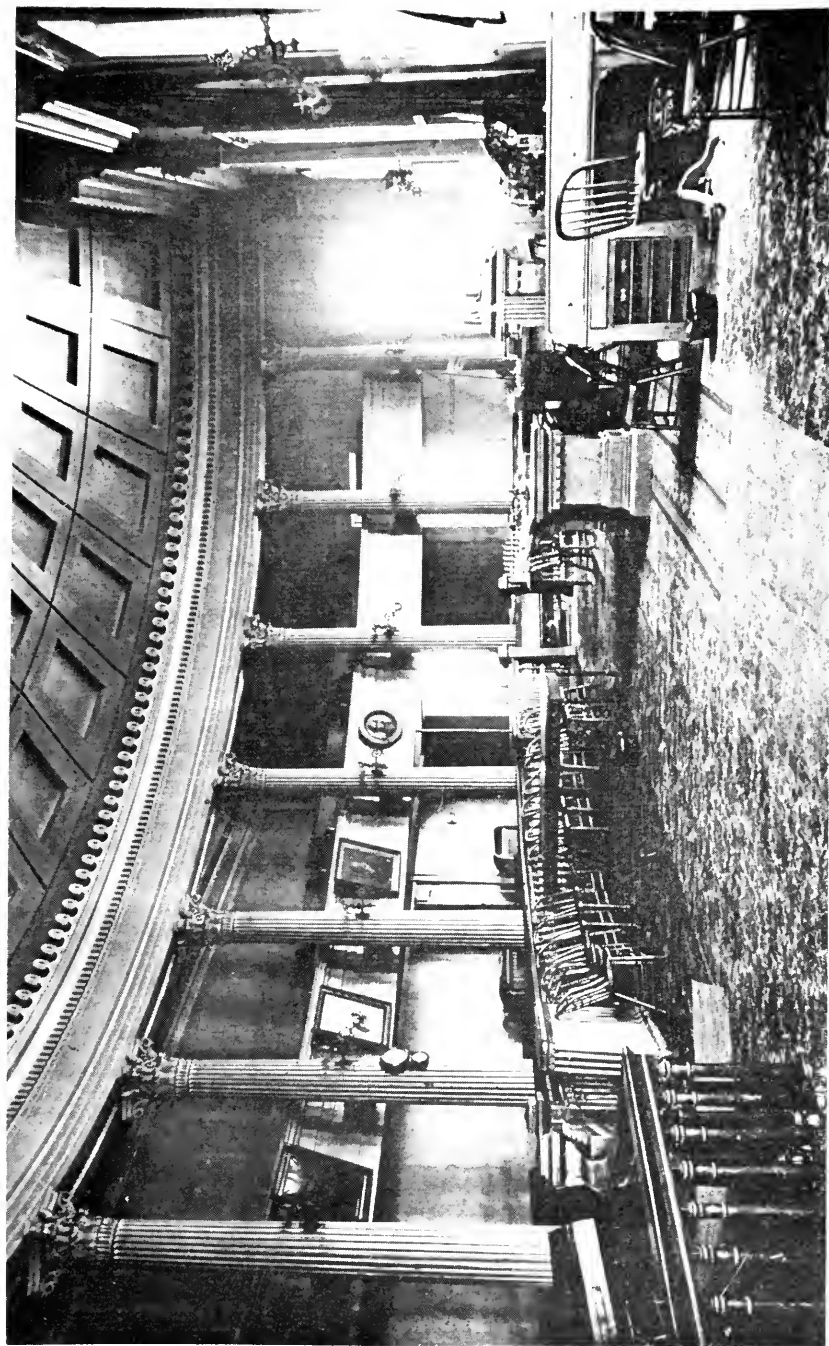
Interviews with some of the descendants of those who worked on this building develop the following: Miss Jeannette Smith, and her sister, Mrs. N. W. Edwards, living at 1028 East Monroe Street, state that their grandfather, William Harrower, a Scotchman, and his partner, a man by the name of Duncan, were in business as stone cutters at the foot of 13th Street, New York City. Mr. Harrower was invited to come here to do the stone work, and came in the year 1837. He returned to New York City, where he married, and for a wedding trip took his wife by boat to New Orleans, thence up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, and thence to Springfield by stage, arriving here in the fall of 1838.

He established a stone cutting yard at the corner of Sixth and Monroe Streets, where the Post Office now stands, and built himself a house at Eleventh and Monroe Streets. He evidently brought with him a number of stone cutters as there certainly could not have been many skilled workmen of that kind in a village of eleven hundred, where there were no stone buildings; and Mrs. Harrower was put to a great deal of inconvenience trying to house as many as possible of the stone cutters.

Among the old papers left by Mr. Harrower are several time sheets, showing the employment of stone cutters at the rate of \$1.75 and \$2.00 per day, dated in 1847-49. These time sheets evidently represent the work on the pillars and porticos, and no record can be found of the stone work in previous years, although the descendants of Mr. Harrower are satisfied that the original stone work was done under his supervision.

Mrs. Alice J. Shoup, previously referred to, was the daughter of William Mourer, who, with his partner, Benjamin Ferguson, worked as carpenters on this building. Mrs. Shoup recalls that William Harrower came to her father's house a number of times to consider plans, and she understood that Mr. Harrower was doing the stone work on the State House. Mrs. Shoup states that after the building was completed and the flag pole in place, it was found that the pole was too high, and that her father climbed to the top and cut off a portion of it, while she and her mother watched him with considerable trepidation. Mrs. Shoup also relates that she attended a number of social functions

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HALL.—Here Lincoln sat during his last session in the Illinois General Assembly. On the wall behind Speaker Anderson hung the life-size painting of George Washington, which now hangs in the Illinois State Archives Building. Here political debates and public meetings were held for a generation, with Ex-President Martin Van Buren's visit on June 17, 1842, being the first famous visitor.



held in the rotunda of the State House, and that she danced there a great many times.

Mr. James S. Sutton, of 1133 South Second Street, states that his father, James C. Sutton, and his uncle, Goyn A. Sutton, in the year 1842 took the contract to make the doors and the floors and the pillars for the balconies in the legislative halls. These pillars were made of walnut, and were fluted. The doors were made of walnut and oak, and the floors of oak. The timber was cut in Sangamon County and hewed out by hand. Mr. Sutton still has some of the tools used in doing this work.

Mr. William Helmle, father of George H. Helmle, carved the capitals on the pillars in the House of Representatives. His work was most artistic and delicate, and was greatly admired.

Mr. Charles Dallman, together with a Mr. Graham, took the contract for building the stairway in the rotunda. Mr. Dallman was the father of Vincent Y. Dallman, the editor of the *Illinois State Register*. This work was done about 1851 and was probably a rebuilding of the first stairway. Mr. Dallman was a skilled workman and took great pride in the finished job, as it was all hand work and represented the very best of his skill. These stairs were always much admired, and are remembered by many of our citizens.

Mr. J. Lin Roll of 825 South Henrietta Street, furnishes some very interesting information about his father, John E. Roll.

The books left by John E. Roll show that he, together with Isaac Smith and George Leggott had the contract for plastering the old State House. Among the papers is a memorandum in the handwriting of John E. Roll as follows:

Amount of State House Job	\$3,406.22
Amount of expense	1,096.09
	<hr/>
	2)2,310.13
	<hr/>
Net proceeds after taking out Leggot's Share .	1,155.06
	<hr/>
Roll's Share	\$ 577.53

John E. Roll was born June 9, 1814, in Greenville, N. J. He came to Sangamon County in 1830, traveling overland to Pittsburgh, thence by boat to St. Louis. From St. Louis he came overland to Springfield and then to Sangamo Town on the Sangamon River northwest of Springfield.

Near Sangamo Town was Roll's Ford, named after his cousin, Pierson Roll.

While living at Sangamo Town John E. Roll helped Abraham Lincoln build his famous flat boat.

He moved to Springfield and was apprenticed to learn the trade of plastering. In 1839 he married Harriett Van Dyke, the sister of Eliza M. Rague, the wife of John F. Rague, the architect of this building.

Mr. J. Lin Roll states that he heard his father say many times that his brother-in-law John F. Rague was the architect of this building and that he superintended its construction.

Among the papers left by John E. Roll is a Sheriff's deed dated April 24th, 1845, which recites that it is given pursuant to a judgment secured in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County by John E. Roll against John F. Rague at the March term, 1842, for \$157.03.

John E. Roll kept a very complete set of books which disclose that he did work for many of the old, prominent families of this city. Several jobs of work were charged to Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. James M. Garland, present here today, was born on the south side of the public square in 1835, where Thoma & Sons now have their dry goods establishment. Mr. Garland recalls the building of the State House, and relates how, when he was a small boy, his father led him around on top of the stone foundation of the building, which had then been laid and was evidently awaiting the development of the plans as to whether or not the work would be continued with stone or brick. Mr. Garland also recalls the fact that Mr. J. F. Rague was well known in Springfield at the time, and also recalls the Mechanics Institute, at which place he went to school when he was about eight or nine years old, the teacher being the Rev. Francis Springer.

It is difficult to settle definitely the question as to when the building was first occupied. The newspapers have been searched and the question has been asked why the local press did not give better accounts of local events. One of our prominent citizens probably gives the best answer by saying that "there was no need to publish very much of the local happenings when everybody in the community knew what was going on." The probabilities are, owing to the smallness of the community and the fact that everybody watched the progress of this building, the various steps in the building program were not matters of any particular news interest. It is also probable that the offices of the State officers were ready for occupancy before the two Houses of the Legislature.

The first definite information we can get of the use of the building is found in the *Sangamo Journal* of December 4, 1840, which states:

"The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Acting State House Commissioners, informing the House that their hall in the State House would be ready for their reception on next Monday."

In the *Sangamo Journal* of December 11, 1840, appears the following:

"At eleven o'clock the members of the Senate assembled in the chamber of the Senate in the State House at Springfield."

In the *Illinois State Register*, under date of December 18, 1840, appears a resolution adopted by the House:

“Granting to the Educational Convention now meeting in this City the use of the hall of the House of Representatives.”

As further evidence that the House of Representatives met in this room in 1840 and 1841 is the statement of Gen. John A. McClernand, made in an address delivered in this room in 1876, when the Circuit Court held its first session here, in which he stated that he had sat in this room as a member of the House of Representatives together with Abraham Lincoln. The Twelfth General Assembly was the last session of the Legislature in which Gen. McClernand and Mr. Lincoln sat, and its second session began in Springfield on December 7, 1840, and adjourned on March 1, 1841. It seems to be pretty well settled, therefore, that Mr. Lincoln served as a member of the Illinois General Assembly in this identical room.

The writer is indebted to Mr. George M. Brinkerhoff of this city for a description of the arrangement of the rooms. Mr. Brinkerhoff was a clerk in the State Auditor's office from 1860 until 1876. The arrangement of the rooms was identical at that time with the original plan, as the architects who supervised the remodeling in 1899 report that the interior walls had never been disturbed.

The original building was two stories high, the present second story being the original first story, with a north and south entrance. There was no east or west entrance. A rotunda extended from the north to the south doors, in the center of which was the stairway which ascended from the north and the south to a height of about ten feet, to a platform, and thence branched east and west from this platform to the second floor. This rotunda was used repeatedly for public gatherings, the speaker standing on the platform and being able to address the crowd that gathered in the rotunda, and also on the second floor around the railing, which was circular in form. This rotunda was also used for social gatherings, church fairs, revival meetings, and the like.

Upon entering the south door on the first floor, the first room, on the left, in the southwest corner, was that of the State Auditor, below which office was a basement room, reached by an interior stairway, which was used in the sixties to house the State Banking Department, and where the old “stump-tail” currency was destroyed when the state banks liquidated. The space occupied by the Auditor's office is now used by the Sangamon County Probate Court.

In the northwest corner of the first floor was the office of the Secretary of State, and between that office and the office of the Auditor, was a narrow room, which was the State Library. The space occupied by the Secretary of State and the State Library is now occupied by the County Superintendent of Schools and the filing room of the Probate Clerk.

In the southeast corner of the first floor was the office of the State Treasurer, which had large vaults running from the basement up through the office to

the ceiling. The space occupied by the State Treasurer is now occupied by the County Clerk.

In the northeast corner of the first floor were the rooms of the Supreme Court, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Court Reporter and the State Law Library. Between the rooms of the Supreme Court and the State Treasurer was a hallway running from the east side of the rotunda to the east wall of the building, from which hallway a stairway went down to the basement.

Some interest has been evinced as to the origin of the State Library and the State Law Library. By an act approved February 22, 1839, just before the State officers moved to Springfield, \$5,000 was appropriated for a law and miscellaneous library, and the Justices of the Supreme Court and the Governor were directed to select books and arrange for their safe keeping. By an act approved December 15, 1842, the miscellaneous books were separated from the law books and placed in the custody of the Secretary of State, who was made State Librarian, and the law books were placed in the custody of the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

In the present Supreme Court Library is an original document, addressed to the Legislature in 1861, asking it to make more commodious arrangements for the Supreme Court and the State Auditor. This communication is signed by Supreme Court Justices Caton, Walker and Breese; by Auditor Dubois, Secretary of State Hatch, State Treasurer Butler, Superintendent of Public Instruction Bateman, Clerk Turney, and A. Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln at that time had been elected to the Presidency, and the story is that he happened to be in the Clerk's office and at the request of the Clerk he attached his signature.

The entire west side of the second floor was used by the House of Representatives. This room had a balcony, supported by a semi-circle of columns. This room is now occupied by the Circuit Court of Sangamon County.

In the center of the north and south sides of the second floor, and immediately above the rotunda, were committee rooms, one of which in the south end was occupied by the Secretary of the Fund Commission, his office having relation to the various bond issues for internal improvements.

The Senate Chamber was in the northeast corner of the second floor, and occupied practically the north half of the east side of the building. This room also had a small balcony. On the south side were committee rooms, one of which was at times used by the Lieutenant Governor, and as a Post Office. The space occupied by the Senate is now used by the Board of Supervisors.

Immediately south of the rooms of the Senate was a narrow hall extending from the east side of the rotunda and going eastwardly until it entered the Governor's office, which was a narrow room extending north and south, in the southeast corner of the building. The room occupied by the Governor is now used by the Master in Chancery.

Immediately west of the Governor's office, and entered by doors both from

the small hall last mentioned and from the Governor's office, was a small room occupied by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and immediately west of this room, entered by a door from the small hall, was a room which during the war was occupied by the Adjutant General. These last two rooms are now occupied and used by the Master in Chancery and the Court Reporter.

In 1854 the General Assembly appropriated \$20,000 for enclosing and embellishing the grounds about the building:

"To correspond and be equal to the court house square in the City of Chicago."

This was probably the origin of the iron fence that so long surrounded the capitol grounds. Its gates were kept securely locked at night.

In this room, in joint session of the two Houses of the Legislature, have been elected the following United States Senators: Samuel McRoberts, 1841-1843; Sidney Breese, 1843-1849; James Semple, 1843-1847; Stephen A. Douglas, 1847-1853, 1853-1859, 1859-1861; James Shields, 1849-1855; Lyman Trumbull, 1855-1861, 1861-1867; 1867-1873; Orville H. Browning, 1861-1863; William A. Richardson, 1863-1865; Richard Yates, 1865-1871; John A. Logan, 1871-1877; Richard J. Oglesby, 1873-1879.

Here Stephen A. Douglas was thrice elected, receiving his first election at the age of thirty-four; and here Lyman Trumbull also was thrice elected.

In this building have also served the following Governors: Thomas Carlin, Thomas Ford, Augustus C. French, Joel A. Matteson, William H. Bissell, John Wood, Richard Yates, Richard J. Oglesby, John M. Palmer and John L. Beveridge.

In this building were held the sessions of the Supreme Court. From the list of Justices we have selected only those who have served more than one term, with the exception of Stephen A. Douglas, who became a Justice in 1841 at the age of twenty-eight, and served until 1843. This list of Justices includes the following: Samuel H. Treat, two terms; Sidney Breese, four terms; Walter B. Scates, two terms; John D. Caton, five terms; James Shields, two terms; Jesse B. Thomas, three terms; Lyman Trumbull, two terms; Pinkney H. Walker, four terms; John M. Scott, two terms; Benjamin R. Sheldon, two terms; John Schofield, three terms; Alfred M. Craig, three terms; T. Lyle Dickey, two terms. Three of these Supreme Court Justices were elected in this room to the United States Senate; Justice Breese leaving the bench in 1843, going to the United States Senate, and returning to the bench in 1857, and serving until 1878, when he died.

In this building the following Secretaries of State served: Stephen A. Douglas, Lyman Trumbull, Thompson Campbell, Horace S. Cooley, David L. Gregg, Alexander Starne, Ozias M. Hatch, Sharon Tyndale, Edward Rummel, George H. Harlow.

In this building served the following State Treasurers: John D. Whiteside,



NORTH SIDE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE

This was known as "Chicken Row" in the 1840's because of its odd assortment of wooden shacks.

Milton Carpenter, John Moore, James Miller, William Butler, Alexander Starne, James H. Beveridge, George W. Smith, Erastus N. Bates, Edward Rutz, Thomas S. Ridgeway.

In this building served the following Auditors of Public Accounts: Levi Davis, James Shields, W. L. D. Ewing, Thomas H. Campbell, Jesse K. Dubois, Orin H. Miner, Charles E. Lippincott.

In this building served the following Superintendents of Public Instruction: Ninian W. Edwards, William H. Powell, Newton Bateman, John P. Brooks and Samuel M. Etter.

In this building was also held the Constitutional Convention which convened on June 7, 1847, which adopted the constitution which was ratified by popular vote on March 6, 1848. To this convention Sangamon County sent two of its "Long Nine," John Dawson and Ninian W. Edwards, together with James H. Matheny and Stephen T. Logan.

One of the interesting stories in connection with the Constitutional Convention of 1847 relates to the fixing of the pay of the State Officers and members of the Legislature. The question under discussion was the cost of living in the City of Springfield. A statement was made that Ninian W. Edwards lived in the finest of style, with a large number of servants, and entertained very lavishly, and that his household expenses were at the rate of \$1500 a year. Mr. Edwards confirmed this statement, and the salaries were fixed as follows: Governor of the State, \$1500 per annum; Secretary of State, \$800 per annum; Auditor of Public Accounts, \$1000 per annum; State Treasurer, \$800 per annum. The members of the General Assembly were allowed \$2.00 per day for the first forty-two days' attendance, and \$1.00 per day for each day's attendance thereafter, and ten cents for each necessary mile's travel going to and returning from the seat of government. The Speaker of the House was allowed the sum of \$1.00 per day in addition to his per diem as a member.

The story goes that the members of the Legislature, in order to prolong their stay and pay their expenses, resorted to many devices, such as figuring their mileage by various circuitous routes, and voting themselves supplies, such as many issues of newspapers, pocket knives, and so forth, the orders for which they are said to have cashed instead of getting the supplies. This practice created such a scandal that when the Constitution of 1870 was adopted, very stringent provisions were made to prevent the occurrence of such acts.

In this building was also held the Constitutional Convention of 1862, but the Constitution adopted was rejected by the people at an election held in June, 1862. In this Convention Sangamon County was represented by Benjamin S. Edwards and James D. Smith.

In this building was also convened the Constitutional Convention which met on December 13, 1869, which adopted the Constitution which was ratified by the people on July 2, 1870, and which, with its amendments, is our present

Constitution. In this Constitutional Convention, Sangamon and Logan Counties were represented by Milton Hay and Samuel C. Parks.

Mr. Lincoln, having become a resident of Springfield in 1837, was, of course, one of the regular frequenters of this building. In addition to serving in the Legislature, he appeared and argued cases before the Supreme Court, made frequent use of both the State Library and the Supreme Court Law Library, and interested as he was, in politics, must have mingled repeatedly with the members of the Legislature and been closely associated with the various State Officers, many of whom were his intimate friends.

Mr. Lincoln was elected to the 30th Congress as a member of the Lower House, 1847-1849. He then returned to Springfield, fully determined to keep out of politics and devote himself to the practice of the law. In this he succeeded until 1854, when the repeal of the "Missouri Compromise" by the enactment of what was known as the "Kansas-Nebraska Bill," revived the slavery agitation, this question having been somewhat at rest since the passage of the "Missouri Compromise" Act in 1820. The "Missouri Compromise" was fathered by Henry Clay, and provided that after the admission of Missouri slavery in the future should not be extended in the Territory of the Louisiana Purchase north of the parallel of latitude 36° 30'. It was generally hoped that this compromise would settle the question. The Mexican War, however, added extensive territory to the southwest portion of the United States, and the gold rush of 1848-1849 made it evident that all of the United States west of the Mississippi River would soon be opened up and create vast territory for new states.

In 1850 Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, who were then old men, brought about the passage of what was known as the "Compromises of 1850." These acts related principally to the territory secured from Mexico and were not intended to repeal the original "Missouri Compromise."

In May, 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was passed under the leadership of Stephen A. Douglas. By this legislation the "Missouri Compromise" of 1820 was specifically repealed, and provision was made that the question as to whether or not these Territories should be slave or free should be left to a vote of the people in the Territories. This action disrupted the principal political parties and began to solidify sentiment throughout the country, and divided the people into two principal classes; those who favored the extension of slavery, and those who favored its restriction.

The South was determined to maintain slavery as an institution and was insistent upon the extension of slavery because all the territory in the South had already been cut up into States. Each new State would send two Senators to the United States Senate, together with the delegations in the House of Representatives. The South feared that it would lose control of the National

Congress. This made the South desire the extension of slavery into the new States.

It was the attempt to hold elections in these Territories under the "popular sovereignty" doctrine that caused a great influx of persons who endeavored to control the elections, and resulted in many pitched battles and caused much loss of life.

Mr. Douglas was ambitious to be President of the United States. He wanted the support of the South, and apparently his action was designed to keep the South in line and at the same time satisfy his friends in the North.

It was the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bills that caused Mr. Lincoln to again become active in politics. There was a feeling that the anti-Nebraska people could control the State Legislature of Illinois, and accordingly Mr. Lincoln and Stephen T. Logan became candidates for the Illinois House of Representatives on the anti-Nebraska ticket, and were elected in the fall of 1854. A canvass of the Legislature indicated that the anti-Nebraska men could control the Legislature on joint ballot for the election of the United States Senator, and Mr. Lincoln, believing that he could be elected, resigned his seat in the House of Representatives, and was succeeded by Jonathan McDaniel. Mr. Lincoln then became an active candidate for the Senate, to become the colleague of Stephen A. Douglas, in the place of James Shields, whose term would expire on March 4, 1855.

When the joint General Assembly met in this room to ballot, a number of the Democrats, although they were anti-Nebraska, could not bring themselves to vote for a Whig, to which party Mr. Lincoln belonged, and accordingly five of them brought forward Lyman Trumbull and caused a deadlock. This continued for eight ballots and Mr. Lincoln, becoming fearful that a colorless individual would be selected as a compromise, advised his friends to vote for Lyman Trumbull, and Mr. Trumbull, on the tenth ballot, was elected. Mr. Lincoln thus sacrificed himself to send to the United States Senate as a colleague of Stephen A. Douglas an out and out anti-Nebraska man, a capable and brilliant lawyer, who had held state elective office and who had served upon our State Supreme Court bench.

Preliminary to the election of Mr. Lincoln to the State Legislature in 1854 some very thrilling and dramatic events took place in this State. After the repeal of the "Missouri Compromise" in May, 1854, Mr. Douglas hurried back to Illinois to fix up his fences and participate in the election of his new colleague. He came to Chicago where he delivered an address, defending his position, but his audience so disturbed his meeting that he left the platform in disgust. He then came down to Springfield and arranged to make a public address at the State Fair, but the weather was so inclement that the meeting was held in this room. On this occasion Mr. Douglas stated that he understood that Mr. Lincoln would probably reply to him, and that he hoped he was

present in the audience to hear what he had to say. Mr. Lincoln was not present at the time but came in later.

Mr. Douglas then in his forceful manner discussed the "Missouri Compromise," the "Compromises of 1850," and expounded his theory of "popular sovereignty," as embodied in the Kansas-Nebraska bills, passed in the month of May previous. The following day Mr. Lincoln replied in this room, Mr. Douglas being present. Mr. Lincoln was in a happy frame of mind, and spoke for four hours, and gave evidence of having devoted a great deal of thought to the great questions of the day. At various times during his speech Mr. Douglas interrupted him in a perfectly friendly fashion, and they argued back and forth. After Mr. Lincoln had concluded, Mr. Douglas replied for two hours, but their addresses were not preserved.

Two weeks later Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas met in debate in Peoria, and upon his return from Peoria Mr. Lincoln reduced his speech to writing, stating that it was in substance the same as the one which he had previously delivered here. The meeting of Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas in this room was the beginning of the making of an issue that was cried out in the debates of 1858, and which finally resulted in the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency in 1860.

Every lawyer knows that the foundation of a law suit is the making of the correct issue, and the skillful lawyer is the one who before the trial can make up the proper issue. In this court room issues have been made for the trial of the rights of person and of property, and in this very room the issues that resulted in the greatest trial in the history of our nation were just as truly made up. It was here that Mr. Douglas defined his position, and it was here that Mr. Lincoln in listening to him, and in replying to him, began to shape the pleadings which finally resulted in a definite issue.

For many years the problems had been met by compromises, but Mr. Lincoln saw that the day for compromising was passing and that the questions must be definitely settled, and it was his wisdom and foresight that so shaped the issues that the trial might be had upon the correct issue, and that the verdict might be final.

Mr. Lincoln then busied himself with the organization of the Republican Party, which was formed in Bloomington in 1856, and sent delegates to the National Convention at Philadelphia. Mr. Lincoln had become so prominent that he barely escaped being nominated as Vice President by the Philadelphia Convention. The election of 1856 made James Buchanan President, and a few days after his inauguration the famous Dred Scott decision was handed down by the United States Supreme Court. This decision stripped "popular sovereignty" from application to any United States Territory.

In June, 1857, Senator Douglas came to Springfield and delivered an address in this room, discussing the subjects previously presented by him in 1854, and

in addition, taking up the Dred Scott decision. In this address he fore-shadowed the position which he would be compelled to take in his Freeport debate with Mr. Lincoln in 1858.

In its issue of June 15, 1857, the *Illinois State Register* states that the Representatives' Hall was a perfect jam, that a very large number of ladies were present, and that—

“We were pleased to see in attendance Col. W. H. Herndon, the Hon. A. Lincoln, the Hon. S. M. Cullom, and many other prominent men of the Republican Party.”

Mr. Lincoln gave his very best thought to the arguments put forth by Senator Douglas, and on June 26th following delivered a carefully prepared address, answering Mr. Douglas in detail. Here again we see the additional act in the drama, all going toward making up the issue, in this very room. The address of Mr. Lincoln attracted attention throughout the country, and it became generally recognized that he would become the logical candidate to succeed Senator Douglas when his term should expire on March 4, 1859.

The Republican State Convention met in this room on June 16, 1858. It commended United States Senator Lyman Trumbull as an exponent of Republican principles, and resolved that:

“Abraham Lincoln is the first and only choice of the Republicans of Illinois for the United States Senate as the successor of Stephen A. Douglas.”

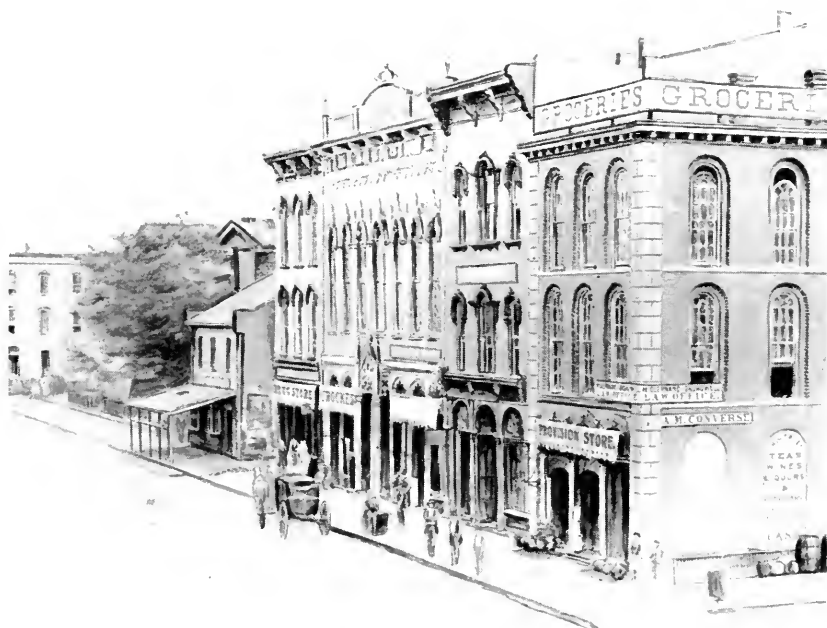
In the evening Mr. Lincoln delivered in this room his famous “House divided against itself” speech.

Very shortly after the commencement of his address he said:

“ ‘A house divided against itself can not stand.’ I believe this government can not endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*. I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved*—I do not expect the house to *fall*, but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided.”

This expresses the very essence of the philosophy of Mr. Lincoln. He had an abiding faith that the question of slavery would be ultimately settled, and settled right, and he also had an abiding faith that the Union would be saved. It cannot be said that Mr. Lincoln knew exactly how this was going to be brought about. He did not believe that the matter could be settled by compromise, but he did believe that there was some issue that could be joined that would bring about a final verdict, and that this verdict would be the correct one. He believed that this great question could be settled in a constitutional manner. He respected the rights of property and was not in favor of invading any of the constitutional rights of the South, but he was unalterably opposed to the further extension of slavery, and upon this he was unyielding.

It may be that he believed that slavery would be ultimately wiped out by



EAST SIDE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE

On the extreme left is the three-story Logan Building where the U.S. Courts met after 1855. Hidden by the trees is the Sangamon County Court House (1841-1876).

the force of economic law and that it would yield to a public sentiment that had been gradually crystallizing for many years. He believed that the Union was the highest type of Government of the people, by the people and for the people and as such it must be saved.

The "House divided against itself" speech is considered by many as the greatest speech ever delivered by Mr. Lincoln. It certainly was masterly in construction and delivery, and at the time attracted national attention. It was the product of the most mature deliberation and was the pleading that presented the ultimate fact to be tried out before the jury of the people during the coming debates.

The fact that this great address was delivered in this building is enough to make this edifice historically famous.

Then followed the challenge of Mr. Lincoln to Senator Douglas for the famous joint debates which were held throughout the State during the balance of the year 1858. These debates were the public trial of the cause upon the issues that had been made up in this room.

It was at the debate in Freeport that Mr. Lincoln propounded his famous question:

"Can the people of a United States Territory, in any lawful way, against the wish of any citizen of the United States, exclude slavery from its limits prior to the formation of a State Constitution?"

Mr. Lincoln had been advised not to ask this question but to such advice he responded that while the answer of Mr. Douglas would probably elect Mr. Douglas to the United States Senate, it would defeat him for the Presidency. Mr. Lincoln was right, for the answer of Mr. Douglas satisfied his friends in Illinois, but alienated from him his party in the South.

Mr. Lincoln in turn, however, while losing the election to the United States Senate, was made the candidate of his party for the Presidency in 1860, in which year, as you all know, he was elected.

After Mr. Lincoln was nominated Springfield became the headquarters of the campaign, and many of the most distinguished men of the nation came here to see what manner of man the Republican Party had nominated from this little town, almost an outpost of civilization.

Governor Wood tendered to Mr. Lincoln the use of the executive offices on the second floor of this building, and it was in this office that Mr. Lincoln met the many visitors who came to see him.

Mr. Jesse W. Weik, in his book, *The Real Lincoln*, at page 287 relates an interview with Mr. John W. Bunn, in which Mr. Bunn stated that one day on the stairway in this building he passed Mr. Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, and that when he entered the room of Mr. Lincoln he said that he hoped that Mr. Lincoln would not place that man in the cabinet. Mr. Lincoln wanted to know why, to which Mr. Bunn replied, "He thinks he is a great deal bigger

than you are." Mr. Lincoln's reply was: "If you know any other men who think they are bigger than I am, I want to put them all in my cabinet."

Dr. Newton Bateman, Superintendent of Public Instruction, occupied the room next to the Presidential candidate, and on many occasions Mr. Lincoln's room became so crowded that Dr. Bateman took charge of the overflow. Dr. Bateman delivered an address in Galesburg, which was published by a little club known as the "Cadmus Club." In this address Dr. Bateman tells of the eight months during which he saw Mr. Lincoln every day for several hours, meeting all classes of citizens, from the most distinguished to the humblest, and that Mr. Lincoln at all times conducted himself with dignity and with most pleasant address.

Dr. Bateman related how, after the committee to notify him of his nomination had called upon Mr. Lincoln, he stated that he would acknowledge the nomination formally in writing. A few days afterwards Mr. Lincoln handed to Dr. Bateman his written acceptance, which was as follows:

"The declaration of principles and sentiments which accompanied your letter meets my approval and it shall be my care to not violate it or disregard it in any part."

When Mr. Lincoln handed this written statement to Dr. Bateman he stated that grammar was not his stronghold, and that he would like to have Dr. Bateman correct it if it needed doctoring. This statement by Mr. Lincoln, the author of the Gettysburg speech, so frequently referred to as a model of the English language, seems somewhat amusing. Dr. Bateman returned the note with the recommendation that the words "to" and "not" be transposed, to which Mr. Lincoln replied: "Oh, you think I had better turn those two little fellows end for end?"

In this same address Dr. Bateman refers to an incident that happened one day in the State Law Library, when Mr. Lincoln was playing a game of chess with Judge Treat. Tad Lincoln came to summon his father to dinner, and Mr. Lincoln kept him away from the table with his long arms, watching the game, until his vigilance having relaxed, the boy tilted the chessboard and the chessmen rolled on to the floor. Judge Treat was much amazed and advised summary punishment. Mr. Lincoln attempted to capture the boy, but the boy eluded him, ran out of the State House, whereupon Mr. Lincoln laughingly remarked: "I guess that upheaval was rather fortunate for you, Judge," and quietly put on his hat and followed the boy home.

It was while the presidential campaign was being conducted in this building that a young man, who ultimately achieved international fame, got his start. When the campaign first opened up it was apparent that the correspondence of Mr. Lincoln would become very heavy, and as all letters had to be answered carefully, and in longhand, it was necessary to have capable assistants, Mr. O. M. Hatch, Secretary of State, loaned to Mr. Lincoln, without expense, John

G. Nicolay, a clerk in his office, a young man whom he had brought with him from Pittsfield, Illinois. The correspondence became so heavy that Mr. Nicolay could not handle it, and at a conference of friends Mr. Milton Hay stated that he had a young man studying law in his office by the name of John Hay, whose services he could secure without cost.

John Hay was a nephew of Milton Hay, had studied at the old Illinois State University, now the Lutheran College in this city, from which school he had gone to Brown University. After his graduation from Brown, John Hay had returned to his home at Warsaw, Illinois, from which place he came to Springfield in 1859 to study law in the office of his uncle, Milton. John Hay was not particularly anxious to study law. In fact, he wanted a clerkship in the Auditor's office, which was next to the State Library, so that he might have opportunity to indulge his literary tastes. However, he did take up the study of law seriously, which he pursued until he became the assistant secretary to Mr. Lincoln. He here renewed his intimate acquaintance with Mr. Nicolay, whom he had previously known at Pittsfield. John Hay was very adept in the writing of a happy letter, and it is related that he displayed great skill in the very important correspondence that was turned over to him.

When it came time for Mr. Lincoln to leave for Washington he had become so attached to both of his secretaries that he wanted to take them with him. As the Presidential allowance for secretaries was only \$2500, he did not see how he could take care of John Hay. Mr. Milton Hay relieved the situation by agreeing to support his nephew in Washington for the first six months, but after the two secretaries were established in the White House the President made arrangements to relieve Mr. Milton Hay from this burden.

How strange that John Hay should get his first schooling in diplomacy at the age of twenty-two in handling important correspondence in a most trying time for a Presidential nominee here in this building.

The diplomatic career of Mr. Hay is familiar to all. He served in somewhat minor capacities in the United States Legations at Paris, Vienna and Madrid. He was Assistant Secretary of State in 1879, and subsequently was Secretary of State under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. He was Ambassador to the Court of St. James, where he served with great distinction and reflected the greatest credit upon the American people. Little did he dream, when he tried his hand at letter writing in this building that one day he would be internationally famous as the negotiator of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty and the "Open Door" policy in China.

Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, on which occasion his old political antagonist, Stephen A. Douglas, showed his real character by sitting on the platform and holding the hat of his former rival, as he delivered his inaugural address. And then came the war, and Mr. Douglas hurried back to Springfield, and here in this room, before the two Houses of the Legislature,

presided over by Shelby M. Cullom, Speaker of the House, then thirty-one years of age, delivered his great, patriotic address, declaring himself unqualifiedly for the preservation of the Union, and calling upon all loyal citizens, regardless of party, to uphold the President. And then in a few days, Stephen A. Douglas, the "Little Giant," the brilliant and accomplished orator and debater, the patriot, passed away at his home in the City of Chicago, at the age of 48, his last public words having been an appeal to maintain the integrity of the Union.

The war started from this building another young man on the road to fame. When the President called for volunteers a company was organized in Galena, Illinois, Ulysses S. Grant, then thirty-nine years of age, who had come to Galena to clerk in his father's store, was asked to drill the company. Mr. Grant had graduated from West Point and had served in the Mexican War, but had tired of the regular army life. Mr. Grant drilled the company in Galena and brought it down to Springfield, to turn it over to the Governor to become a part of the Illinois quota, but declined the Captaincy of the company. He did, however, write to the Adjutant General of the United States asking for a commission, but his letter was not answered, and it was found in the files of the War Department many years after the war closed.

The troops began to gather in this City and Mr. Grant was employed to help drill them and get them into shape. During this period Mr. George M. Brinkerhoff was a clerk in the office of Mr. Jesse K. Dubois, the State Auditor, and Mr. Brinkerhoff relates that Mr. Grant would come into the Auditor's office and sit around, rarely speaking to any one, and making few acquaintances. For this service Mr. Grant was paid \$120, the warrant being issued by Mr. Brinkerhoff, and being cashed in the office of the State Treasurer.

In the early part of June, 1861, Mr. Grant went to his old home near Cincinnati, thinking that he might meet Gen. George B. McClellan, who was organizing troops in that territory, and intending to appeal to him for a commission. Meanwhile a regiment, organized in the neighborhood of Mattoon, Illinois, and known as the 21st Illinois, had become unmanageable by reason of lack of discipline and the character of some of the men. Governor Yates and his friends saw that the 21st Illinois would not be fit for service if it was not put in the hands of a competent Colonel. Mr. Dubois was particularly interested in this regiment because it came from his part of the state. Mr. Dubois said that he had been watching the man, Grant, who had been sitting around his office, and that he considered him one of the few men who had appeared around the capitol who was a real soldier, and that he was going to ask the Governor to commission Grant as Colonel of the 21st Illinois.

One day Mr. Dubois went up to the Governor's office, and returned rather hurriedly and red in the face, and announced that he had gotten the appointment for Grant, that the Governor's secretary wanted the appointment for a

friend in Chicago, and had been very insistent, and that if he had not subsided he, Dubois, would have taken him by the nap of the neck and thrown him out of the window.

When Mr. Grant returned from Ohio he was given his commission and assumed command on June 16, 1861. On June 28, 1861, the 21st Illinois was mustered into the United States service for three years, and on the 3rd day of July, 1861, this regiment, with Ulysses S. Grant as its Colonel, marched out of Camp Yates, in the west part of the city, and started on foot down the Jacksonville Road, headed for Quincy.

The father of the writer of this article, Dr. A. L. Converse, was authority for the following incidents related to him by Gen. John A. McClernand. Gen. McClernand stated that when Mr. Grant was commissioned as Colonel of the 21st Illinois, he, McClernand, was directed to take Grant out and present him to the regiment. He secured a carriage, and as he was leaving this building he met John A. Logan and asked Mr. Logan to accompany him and Grant and make the presentation speech. Gen. McClernand said that he was particularly anxious to get Mr. Logan to make the speech because there had been a great deal of talk throughout the country that Mr. Logan was sympathizing with the South and was not friendly to the National administration. Mr. Logan came from Southern Illinois, and this portion of the State was hesitating until the position of Mr. Logan should be definitely disclosed.

Mr. Logan got into the carriage and on the way out Gen. McClernand said that the regiment was somewhat surly and should be enthused if possible. Mr. Logan's address was most patriotic and thrilling, and in his enthusiasm Mr. Logan so thoroughly committed himself to the cause of the Union that there could be no question as to where he stood.

Gen. Grant in his Memoirs refers to the wonderful address delivered by Mr. Logan, but does not entirely agree with the statement of Gen. McClernand, in that he states that this address was made after he had taken command of the regiment, and that Messrs. McClernand and Logan had requested the privilege of making speeches, as they were both members of Congress, and had just returned from Washington. Gen. Grant further says that he hesitated somewhat about letting Mr. Logan speak as he had some personal doubts as to just where Mr. Logan stood, but he was glad that he did give his permission, as Mr. Logan's speech settled all doubts as to his position, and thereafter Southern Illinois responded to every call of the President with more than its quota.

Ulysses S. Grant attracted practically no attention in this city, and no one dreamed that within four years he would be the commanding general of the armies of the Union, with a reputation as one of the world's greatest generals. No one in Springfield, by the wildest flight of imagination, would have antici-



SOUTH SIDE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE

The clock tower is on the Baptist Church one block east of the square. The American House stands at the southeast corner of the square.

pated that this young man, looking for a commission, drilling soldiers at \$60 a month, would, within eight years, be President of the United States.

During the war the funds of the Government to the amount of \$5,000,000 were handled by Mr. Brinkerhoff in the office of the State Auditor. As the troops were organized the State of Illinois would purchase the clothing and equipment to send the soldiers to the front, and an auditing committee sat in the Auditor's office to audit the bills, which in turn would be forwarded to Washington, and funds from the National government would be sent to Springfield to reimburse the treasury.

During the course of the war one of the most dramatic events in the history of the State of Illinois occurred in this building. The members of the 23rd General Assembly were elected in 1862, and the Legislature convened in this building on January 5, 1863, and adjourned February 14, 1863, until the 2nd of June of that year. This Legislature was politically opposed to Governor Yates and the National administration, and was a source of considerable embarrassment to both the Governor and the President. There was fear, possibly exaggerated, of the things that this Legislature might do, so that when it reconvened in Springfield on June 2, 1863, Governor Yates and his friends were anxious to wind up the session as soon as possible.

On the evening of June 9th, about eleven o'clock, Mr. Dubois, the Auditor, came into his office where he found Mr. Brinkerhoff who, by reason of the great amount of work in the office, was compelled to work well into the night. He told Mr. Brinkerhoff to go up to the Governor's office. The Governor handed him a note and asked him to take it to Judge Stephen T. Logan, and bring back the answer. It was not a particularly pleasant trip at that time of the night out to the home of Judge Logan. But he did as directed, and made a great racket attempting to awaken the family. Finally Judge Logan opened an upper window, and learning who the caller was, came downstairs in his nightclothes, carrying a tallow candle. He read the note of Governor Yates, and being told that Governor Yates wanted a reply in writing, he immediately wrote an answer, which the young man carried back to the Governor, who was waiting.

Governor Yates then asked young Brinkerhoff if he knew what it was all about, and upon being advised that he did not, the Governor told him, in confidence, that he and a number of his friends had been in conference considering the question as to whether or not the Governor had the power to prorogue the Legislature, but that he would not do so until he had the advice of Judge Logan, and that Judge Logan in his answer had advised that the Governor could do so, and that he proposed to do so the following day.

The excuse for proroguing the Legislature was that the Senate had proposed to adjourn on the 8th day of June, and the House had refused to concur in the resolution. The Constitution provided that where the two Houses dis-

agreed as to the time of adjournment; the Governor should have the right to adjourn the Legislature. Evidently the Governor did not intend to give the two Houses an opportunity to further consider the question, for at noon on June 10th he sent a message by special messenger to both of the Houses, notifying them that by reason of their disagreement, and acting upon the authority of the Constitution, he declared them adjourned until the Saturday next preceding the first Monday in 1865.

The members of the Legislature were taken by complete surprise, and were fairly stunned. A lengthy protest was entered upon the Journal of the House, said protest being in many respects similar to the original Declaration of Independence. Enough of the members of both Houses, sufficient to break a quorum, drew their pay and went home, and nearly all the members followed suit in the course of a few days.

On the 23rd and 24th of June, however, two members of the Senate and four members of the House undertook to hold a session of the Legislature, claiming that they had not adjourned, and one of the members of the House, Mr. Charles A. Keys of this city, demanded his pay, amounting to two dollars, for these two days' services, and because the Auditor, Mr. Dubois, would not issue the warrant, he started a mandamus suit against the State Auditor in the Supreme Court.

At the same time another mandamus suit was filed against Mr. O. M. Hatch, the Secretary of State, to compel him to certify an act incorporating the Wabash Railway Company, on the ground that the Governor had not returned the bill, with his veto, within ten days after it had been passed by the Legislature. These two law suits are reported in full in the 33rd Volume of the *Illinois Reports*, pages 9 to 166, inclusive, and they are very interesting because the court in considerable detail states the facts as well as the law.

It is generally understood that the Supreme Court sustained the action of the Governor in proroguing the Legislature, but a reading of these cases disclosed that the Court did what Supreme Courts frequently do, that is, decided the cases without passing upon this precise point. The gist of the decisions was that when the Governor prorogued the Legislature the members left and went home, and that in fact constituted an adjournment, regardless of whether or not the Governor had the power under the circumstances to exert his constitutional authority.

The last event in this building, so far as it relates to Abraham Lincoln, was on the 4th day of May, 1865, when his remains lay in state in this room, immediately in front of the Speaker's rostrum. Press accounts at the time state that twenty-five thousand people passed in review that day. This great concourse of people came into this building through the north door, up the north stairway, into the north door of this room, passed around the remains, out the south door of this room, and down the south stairs and out the south

door. After the remains had been viewed they were taken to Oak Ridge Cemetery and interred in the receiving vault.

A description of the appearance of this room when the remains of Mr. Lincoln lay here in state is found in the *History of Sangamon County*, 1881, at page 357, and is as follows:

"The scene inside the Hall was most solemn and impressive; the elegance and appropriateness of the decorations, the rich catafalque underneath a splendid canopy, the silent dead, the officers and guard, making up a sad picture. The decorations were in most excellent taste; the general arrangement being such as to make them correspond with the room, which is a semi-circular colonnade of eleven Corinthian columns, supporting a half-dome, the straight side being toward the west, in the centre of which was the Speaker's chair (which was removed for the occasion). At the apex of the dome was a rising sun, radiating to the circumference. On the floor a dais was erected, ascended by three steps; on the dais, a hexagon canopy supported on columns twelve feet high, the shaft covered with black velvet, the capitals wrought in white velvet, with silver bands and fillets; the canopy rising seven feet in the centre, tent-shaped, covered with heavy black broadcloth in radiating slack folds, surmounted at the apex and at each angle with heavy black plumes with white centre, with draped eagle on the center of each crown-mould; the cornice, corresponding with the capitals, covered with black velvet, the moulding and bands of silver; the lining of the canopy was of white crepe, in radiating folds over blue, thick set with stars of silver, with black velvet and silver fillets inside the cornice; between columns a rich velvet valance, in folds, with heavy silver fringe, from under which depended velvet curtains extending from each column two-thirds of the distance from the capitals to the cornice, looped with bands, the whole so disposed as to exhibit both columns and capitals inside and out. The effect of the canopy, with its supports and drapery, was very imposing, the whole being unique and elegant, combining lightness with massiveness with great effect. Twelve brilliant jets of gas, burning in globes, shining from the columns, lit the interior, reflecting from the folds of the canopy a soft and pleasing light.

"The catafalque was covered with black velvet, trimmed with silver bands, and adorned with thirty-six stars of burnished silver—twelve at the head, and twelve at each side. The floor of the dais was covered with evergreens strewn with white flowers. The steps of the dais were covered with massive broadcloth drapery, bordered with silver.

"The columns of the Hall were draped with black crepe, and the capitals festooned and entwined with the same, and ornamented with rosettes. The cornice was appropriately draped, and bearing around the entire circumference, in large, white letters, on a black ground, the words of President Lincoln at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, February 22, 1861: *Sooner than*



WEST SIDE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE

S. H. Melvin, Medicines, is shown to the right on the northwest corner of the square. Lincoln played chess here, his law office with William H. Herndon being in the building to the left across the street.

Surrender These Principles, I Would Be Assassinated on the Spot. In front of the gallery were black velvet panels, nine feet by two and a half, having silver bands and fringe, with crossed olive branches in the center. Above the gallery were looped curtains of black crepe, extending around the semi-circle. Below the gallery were white crepe curtains, with black looped upon it. Each column was ornamented with a beautiful wreath of evergreens and white flowers.

"On the top of the gallery, and extending around, was a wreath of evergreens. The Corinthian cornice is continued on the west, at each side, twenty-three feet, toward the center, supported by pillars of the same order, the space between being surmounted by an obtuse arch, reaching within one foot of the apex, projecting six inches, leaving a depression resembling a panel, thirty-three feet wide by thirty-seven feet high at the extreme height. In the upper portion of this was placed a blue semi-circular field, sixteen feet across, bearing stars six inches in diameter, and from which radiated the thirteen stripes of the American flag in delicate crepe, two feet wide at the circumference of the blue field, increasing in width to five feet at the extreme lower angle, breaking on the dais below, and the pilasters on either side, the whole surmounted by cloud work in blue and black crepe, and so disposed as to correspond with the blue field, stars, and radiated panel of the ceiling. The centre red stripe falls opposite the opening in the curtains at the head of the catafalque. On the cornice, each side of the flag work, were placed two mottoes, corresponding to that on the semi-circular cornice, forming together one, in these words: *Washington the Father, Lincoln the Savior*. A life-sized portrait of Washington, the frame draped in blue crepe, stood at the head of the catafalque. The interior decorations were perfected under the direction of G. F. Wright, the catafalque by Colonel Schwartz, and the exterior of the building by E. E. Myers.

"The coffin was probably the handsomest ever constructed in this country. It was mahogany, lined with lead, and covered with black cloth of the richest and most expensive quality, heavily fringed with silver, with four silver medallions on each side in which were set the handles. The outside of the coffin was festooned with massive silver tacks, representing drapery, in each fold of which was a silver star, the outer edges adorned with silver braid, with five tassels, five inches in length, each side having upon it four massive handles, and at the head and foot were stars. Upon the top was a row of silver tacks, extending the entire length on both sides, about two inches from the edge. Upon the centre was a silver plate encircled by a shield, formed also of silver tacks, and the face lid and top were united with five silver stars. The inside of the face lid was raised white satin, the centre piece being trimmed with black and white silk braid festooned at each corner with four silver stars."

The State Officers vacated this building in 1876. On February 21, 1876, the Circuit Court of Sangamon County held its first session in this room,

Judge Charles S. Zane presiding. On this occasion remarks were made by Gen. John A. McClernand, William H. Herndon, the old law partner of Mr. Lincoln, and Mr. Benjamin S. Edwards. These remarks were more or less reminiscent of the early days, and particularly was reference made to the association of the speakers with Mr. Lincoln. Gen. McClernand referred to the fact that he had sat in this room with Mr. Lincoln as a member of the House of Representatives. In the course of his remarks Gen. McClernand said:

"This room has been the forum of many historical characters, men who have attained not only state but national prominence. There was Baker, a brilliant, imaginative, graceful speaker, and as brave and chivalrous upon the battle field as he was eloquent upon the rostrum. He has passed away. Lincoln has passed away, Douglas has passed away, and others, and I am left here to recount to you the reminiscences."

At the conclusion of the remarks Judge Zane said that he could add nothing to what had already been said, and proceeded to call the docket.

This building was occupied by the county officials in the same condition as when used as a State Capitol until the building was remodeled in 1899-1901, by raising it a story, putting on a new roof and dome, making additional entrances at the east and the west, altering the arrangement of the building, at a cost of approximately \$170,000. The corner stone of the remodeled building was laid on October 21, 1899, by the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Order. The original corner stone was not found. A full account of these proceedings is found in the *Illinois State Register* of October 22, 1899.

On this occasion remarks were made by Major James A. Connolly, Mr. Clinton Conkling, Mr. James Graham, and others. In this issue of the *Illinois State Register* will also be found a long list of the articles that were placed in the corner stone. The addresses of the gentlemen mentioned were largely reminiscent and touched upon many of the things that have been set forth in this address.

In the course of his address Major Connolly, however, told of an incident that is interesting and somewhat amusing. He stated that during the great political gatherings in the early days, before the railroads came to Springfield, committees would go to the top of this dome, with spy glasses, and watch the surrounding country for approaching delegations as they came by wagon and on horseback, and whenever a delegation was discovered in the distance, crossing the prairie, an escort would be sent out to bring it into the town.

Mr. DeWitt W. Smith tells of another incident that is interesting, and also somewhat amusing. He relates that when the Northern Cross Railroad, the predecessor of the Wabash Railway Company, was about to be extended into the City of Springfield in 1841, there was considerable agitation to have this railroad come down Sixth street and stop at the southeast corner of the public

square. The reason given was that the members of the Legislature would stop at the American House, which stood on that corner, and that it would be convenient for the legislators to get off the train and go directly either into the hotel or into the Capitol building. But this plan was abandoned, and the Northern Cross came in on Tenth street.

Subsequently when it was proposed to bring the Chicago & Alton in from the north, also on Tenth street, the citizens west of the square protested, because the east side of the city had a railroad, and they wanted a railroad on the west side. Accordingly, in order to satisfy public clamor, the Chicago & Alton was permitted to pass through the city on Third street, in order to counterbalance the Wabash on Tenth street. This is a splendid example of how "city planning" does not always work out to the future advantage of a community.

The old days and the great characters referred to have passed into history. We are living in a commercial age. A new generation has come upon the scene since the last corner stone was laid. Those who knew Mr. Lincoln and who witnessed the great scenes that were enacted in this building in his day, are rapidly passing away.

The proceedings here this day are evidence, however, of a renewed interest in the life and activities of our First Citizen. If this paper contributes in the smallest degree to arousing any further interest, then the writer will be well repaid for his efforts.

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